

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school after the Christmas and New Year celebrations. Although it is the Spring term, it still very chilly, especially on the playground so children should have a warm coat with them.

We now have a new addition to the playground in the form of our summerhouse which is located next to sandpit. This will house a quiet area for children to use at playtime with some drawing materials and books in there. Last year the School Council requested some funding from the Allison Trust who very generously made a contribution to the cost for this.

Understandably, it was a very busy time in December and some children didn't manage to do their home reading. It is really important that all children practise their reading. Reading at home plays a crucial role in children's development and research has shown that parents and children reading together strengthens the bond between them and creates a nurturing environment. It not only improves children's language skills, vocabulary and communication but helps to stimulate their imagination and creativity. There is so much more to reading than recognising words; the ability to read well and understand what they have read will have such a positive impact on children's education and future career.

Reading bedtime stories to children is sadly in decline but it is proven to have many benefits. It can be a great source of relaxation and comfort. It can create a comforting bedtime routine, improving sleeping patterns and overall wellbeing. Many children enjoy using devices at home, which is fine but devices used at night stimulate children's brains at a time when they should be winding down ready for bedtime and sleep. If you do not currently read a story to your child, give it a try - your child may look at you a little strangely at first if it is not a routine but it can be very rewarding! If any parents would like to borrow any books to read to their children we have a stock of library books you are welcome to borrow.

We were the runner up school in the 'Win an Archery Day' competition run before Christmas so we do have the offer of an outdoor activity session to be run at school. Thank you to everyone who voted for us and shared the post.

The diary is quite quiet at the moment for Spring but we have been in discussions with various organisations about potential visits.

Spring Term dates so far:

Tuesday 6th February - Year 3/4 STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), Day at HBHS

Tuesday 13th February - Parents Evening

Thursday 15th February - Parents Evening

Friday 16th February - Finish for Half term

Monday 26th February - Training Day

Tuesday 27th February - Children start Spring Term 2

Regards
Mrs Alison Hawkins
Headteacher